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U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/018,373	Hans Bigalke	Merz 32 PCT US/dln

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/DE00/01777

I.A. FILING DATE

PRIORITY DATE

05/26/2000

06/07/1999

25666

THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE  
 500 COLUMBIA PLAZA  
 350 EAST MICHIGAN AVENUE  
 KALAMAZOO, MI 49007

CONFIRMATION NO. 4496

371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER



\*OC00000007481511\*

Date Mailed: 02/20/2002

### NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

12/06/2001

DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and  
 (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS

12/06/2001

DATE OF RECEIPT OF ALL 35 U.S.C.  
 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE " FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** *The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363).* Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- U.S. Basic National Fee
- Copy of IPE Report
- Copy of references cited in ISR
- Copy of the International Application
- Copy of the International Search Report
- Oath or Declaration
- Preliminary Amendments
- Request for Immediate Examination

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Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

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FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)